

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 L-03 FBO-01 SS-20

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH HEAD OF AMERICAN COUNTRIES DEPARTMENT AVRAMOV

REF: A) SOFIA 8

B) STATE 1108

C) SOFIA 1756

1. APART FROM EXPRESSING OUR SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO RAISE SUCH ITEMS AS OUR CONTINUED INTEREST IN DIVIDED FAMILIES ISSUE AND SETTLEMENT OF BULGARIAN DOLLAR BOND INDEBTEDNESS. YOU MIGHT ALSO MENTION OUR EARLIER PROPOSAL ON EXCHANGE OF LAND IN SOFIA AND WASHINGTON FOR EMBASSY SITES.

2. IF AVRAMOV RAISES QUESTION OF POSSIBLE VISIT TO BULGARIA BY SECRETARY, YOU SHOULD RESPOND ALONG LINES OF STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT TO BULGARIAN CHARGE VELCHEV (REF B. PARA 1).

3. WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED POPOV VISIT, THERE SEEMS TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME CONFUSION IN BULGARIAN THINKING ON PURPOSE AND

TIMING OF TRIP. VELCHEV'S REMARKS (REF B) SUGGESTING THAT VISIT COULD BE DELAYED BECAUSE IT COULD NOT ACHIEVE ITS ECONOMIC GOALS AT VARIANCE WITH LUKANOV'S STATEMENTS (REF. C). IF AVRAMOV RAISES QUESTION OF VISIT, YOU SHOULD SEEK TO CLARIFY BULGARIAN VIEWS WITHOUT, HOWEVER, GIVING IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE PRESSING FOR VISIT AT EARLY DATE. IF AVRAMOV ASKS FOR OUR VIEWS, YOU SHOULD RECALL THAT IN EARLIER DISCUSSION IT HAD BEEN NOTED THAT PENDING STATUS OF MFN LEGISLATION BEFORE CONGRESS MADE DISCUSSION OF TRADE AGREEMENT INOPPORTUNE AT THIS TIME AND ADD THAT WE ARE LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY OF OTHER AREAS OF POTENTIAL AGREEMENT. YOU COULD ASK IF AVRAMOV HAD ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS HE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER IN THIS REGARD. RUSH

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